

## Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

SAJ-01 RSR-01 /096 W

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R 141447Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4654

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USNATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, MILL, MT, UK

SUBJ: LABOR PRESS COMPLAINTS ON RAF OPERATIONS

1. AUGUST 14 MALTA NEWS (GWU) CARRIES CENTER SPREAD AND EDITORIAL STRONGLY ATTACKING RAF AIR OPERATIONS AT LUQA AIRPORT.

2. CENTER SPREAD ENTITLED "THE NOISE MONGERS" WITH PHOTOS OF NIMRODS AND LIGHTNINGS, COMPLAINS OF THE NOISE GENERATED BY THESE AIRCRAFT AND DANGERS INVOLVED IN LOW LEVEL FLYING AND HIGH LANDING SPEED OF LIGHTNINGS.

3. EDITORIAL, CAPTIONED "STOP SPOILING OUR IMAGE" CITES:  
"THE NOISE, WHICH ROBS SO MANY OF HARD-EARNED REST AFTER A HARD DAY'S WORK; OUR COUNTRY'S IMAGE, WHICH IS BEING SPOILED BY MILITARY ASPECT OF THESE EXERCISES--AND RIGHT IN THE HEART OF A BOOM TOURIST YEAR TOO; THE RISKS, WHICH THESE GAMES MAY UNNECESSARILY CREATE. MILITARY TENTS AT ONE END OF THE AIRFIELD, SAFETY NETS AT THE OTHER, WARNING SIGNS ABOUT DANGERS OF ARMED AIRCRAFT, AND THE SIGHT OF LOW FLYING AND

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CIRCLING RAF JETS ARE DEFINITELY A SIGHT WHICH DOES NOT DO

OUR PROSPERING TOURIST INDUSTRY ANY GOOD."

4. EDITORIAL ENDS BY ADMITTING THAT BASE AGREEMENT GIVES RAF THE RIGHT TO USE LUQA FOR MILITARY GAMES, BUT SAYS: "DOES IT GIVE THE RIGHT TO DISTURB THE PEACEFUL IMAGE THIS COUNTRY HAS SO PAINSTAKINGLY GAINED AT ITS OWN EXPENSE."

5. COMMENT: THESE COMMENTS ARE STRONGEST SO FAR OF A SERIES OF ARTICLES AND LETTERS TO EDITORS CRITICAL OF NOISE RESULTING FROM RAF OPERATIONS IN THE LUQA AREA, WHICH CAN INDEED BE DEAFENING AT TIMES. THE NEWS' MALTESE LANGUAGE TWIN, L'ORRIZONT, DID NOT CARRY SIMILAR FEATURES, INDICATING THAT THE NEWS' ATTACK IS NOT YET A CONCERTED NATIONAL CAMPAIGN. GETZ

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIRCRAFT NOISE, AIR FORCE, MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS, TOURISTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** hilburpw  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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